

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 3, 2020

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
301 7th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf and Secretary Azar:

We write regarding the ongoing response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and the critical need for supplies and equipment. As Congress has now passed three bipartisan bills with dedicated, comprehensive funding to address this crisis, we request prompt federal assistance to States and local governments on behalf of the workers and families on the front lines of this pandemic, including those in the communities we represent in Orange County, California.

Over the past few weeks, we have spoken with our local hospital administrators, first responders, local government leaders, and other stakeholders about the impending surge of COVID-19 cases. As the rate of new cases continues to accelerate in our communities, we have heard concerns across the board that our communities lack critical equipment needed to treat these patients and protect frontline workers.

Critical supplies in need include, but are not limited to:

- Surgical face masks;
- N95 masks;
- Face shields;
- Isolation gowns;
- Ventilators;
- Lab testing swabs; and
- Hand sanitizer.

It is our understanding that only 15 percent of resources requested by California counties have been shipped out due to the scarcity of resources provided by federal agencies to the State. These concerns are compounded by reports of malfunctioning equipment that has been delivered to the State.

We urge you to use your authorities, including those delegated to Secretary Azar under the Defense Production Act for the proper nationwide prioritization and allocation of all health and medical resources such as those listed above, and the funding appropriated by Congress to work diligently with States and local governments to ensure healthcare workers and first responders on the frontlines are properly equipped to save lives and combat COVID-19.

Additionally, in order to better understand and educate our communities on how this request will be met, we request your response to the following:

1. What steps have been taken to prioritize and allocate critical medical resources?
2. What criteria are being considered to assess need and determine allocation?
3. How many (a) Surgical face masks, (b) N95 masks, (c) face shields, (d) isolation gowns, (e) ventilators, and (f) lab testing swabs, and how much (g) hand sanitizer, have been distributed nationally? And to the State of California?

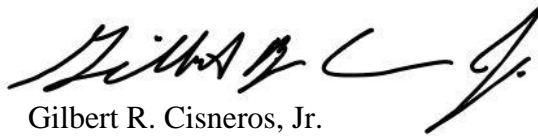
We believe taking decisive, assertive action, including getting critical resources to the frontlines, is the only way we can slow the spread of COVID-19, save American lives, and prevent long-term, devastating consequences for the country. As we confront this unprecedented period in our nation's history, we stand ready to work with you to address the needs of our communities and ensure our health care system and other essential sectors are well equipped to handle this outbreak.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Harley Rouda  
Member of Congress



Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



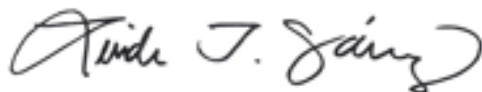
Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress

CC: Peter T. Gaynor, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Robert Kadlec, M.D., MTM&H, M.S., Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response